

THE REMARKS

Applicant believes that entry of the above amendments and consideration of the following remarks will place this application into condition for allowance.

Claims 7-10 are directed to the diacyl urea reaction products of urea and a carboxylic acid having from 2-7 carbon atoms. The reaction products, including N,N' – diacyl ureas are formed by the reaction of urea and the specified carboxylic acid.

Claims 29-33 are directed to seeds which have been treated with the claimed diacyl ureas. It has been found that seeds treated by these products produce superior plant growth. See the discussion in the specification of the application.

None of the prior art cited during prosecution of the parent applications or otherwise known to Applicant discloses or suggests the claimed seeds treated with diacyl ureas as disclosed herein.

CONCLUSIONS

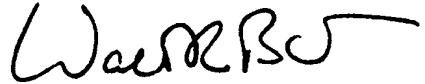
In view of the above remarks and accompanying amendments, favorable consideration of amended or original Claims 7-10 and 29-33 now pending in the application is requested. It is believed that independent Claims 7, 29 and 31, together with all claims depending therefrom are allowable. All claims being allowable, Applicant submits that this case should be promptly passed to issue.

No additional claims fees are required with this Preliminary Amendment. If, however, any fees are required with the application, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 29-

2112. This authorization is provided in duplicate on the accompanying transmittal letter.

If the Examiner considers that a telephone conference would expedite allowance, he is urged to contact the undersigned at (713) 227-8008.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 24 November 2003
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APPENDIX
CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (currently amended) A reaction product formed by reacting a carboxylic acid having from 2 to 7 carbon atoms with urea where the molar ratio of carboxylic acid to urea is about 2:1.
8. (original) The reaction product of Claim 7 wherein said carboxylic acid is acetic acid.
9. (currently amended) The reaction product of Claim 7 wherein said carboxylic acid has the formula RCOOH where R is selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.
10. (original) The reaction product of Claim 9 wherein said urea has the formula (NHR')₂CO where each R' is the same or different and is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl groups having

from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

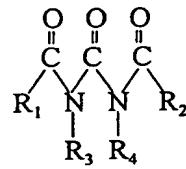
25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (original) A treated seed comprising a plant seed to which has been applied an N,N' – substituted urea having the formula

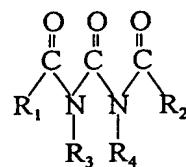


where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

30. (original) The treated seed of Claim 29 wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

31. (original) The treated seed of Claim 29 wherein said plant seed has been soaked in an aqueous solution containing said N,N' – substituted urea.

32. (original) An improved plant seed comprising a seed to which has been applied an N,N' – substituted urea having the formula



where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

33. (original) The improved plant seed of Claim 31 wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are hydrogen.

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